

CELAYA
TUCSON, AZ

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The Arizona Supreme Court was asked to delay the Pima County murder trial of Genaro Celaya, accused of killing an undercover narcotics agent at Tucson International Airport in November 1969.

Defense lawyer Walter Nash charged there was government misconduct because a secret report he needed to help prove entrapment was not released until the retrial got underway. Nash requested Monday that the high court intervene after Superior Court Judge G. Thomas Meehan denied a mistrial.

Celaya is accused of shooting Department of Public Safety agent John Walker during an \$88,000 drug ripoff. Nash claimed it was a case of entrapment because Celaya had threatened to reveal U.S. intelligence work in Mexico.

Prosecutor Randy Stevens said Nash's allegation of complicity between state and federal authorities to undermine the defense case was "baloney."

Celaya once worked as a government narcotics informant. He was recruited by Hugh Murray of the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration. The defense claims Murray still did clandestine work for the CIA, his former employer.

Murray and Celaya apparently had a falling out and Celaya threatened to blow his cover, Nash theorized. After maintaining the documents he sought on a Mexican border drug-intelligence program did not exist, the government released them 1 weeks into Celaya's second trial, Nash complained.

The high court was scheduled to hear arguments Tuesday on halting the trial.

The Supreme Court previously had overturned Celaya's first conviction which carried a prison sentence of 25 years to life.